

CELEBRITY SPACES

Pushing the envelope of design

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Special to Postmedia Network

Quebec-born designer and owner of the award-winning boutique firm Toronto Interior Design Group Yanic Simard (www.tidg.ca) describes the best part of his job.

"There's always something new to learn and new ways of doing things. This allows my firm and I to push the limits of design to the maximum. The beauty of this business is that it renews itself all the time."

The eldest of three kids, Yanic says he "loved spending time at the family's construction business helping his father and learning as much as he could. As much

as I loved the outdoors I also had an intense passion for interiors."

Simard would rearrange the furniture in his siblings' rooms so they would have new layouts. Media and TV also piqued his interest.

"With my clear vision and focus, I was able to link the three of them. I am very thankful to those talented, passionate people who helped me along the way and all of the people behind me today," says Simard who lives by the philosophy 'You can't live a positive life with a negative mind.' Simard's firm is very successful and he truly enjoys his media work.

He is proud to write a regular column for the *Toronto Sun* and appear on *Cityline* as



Designer Yanic Simard

an expert in his field.

Simard invited *Celebrity Spaces* into his home.



Q: How would you describe your home in two words?

A: Safe haven.

Q: Tell us about your home.

A: It's a three-story Victorian home, built in 1935. I moved in six years ago. It's a street corner home that appealed to me because of the beautiful architecture including its large windows on all sides and high ceilings.

Q: What attracted you to this space?

A: I instantly fell in love with the style and feel of the home — the layout is great, including the galley style kitchen that's perfect for me, being the bachelor that I am!

Q: Who shares this home?

A: It's just me and my doggy Mia...and many friends who come and go! We call it Hotel Simard.

Q: How much time do you spend at home?

A: When I'm in Toronto I split my time between my house, my design office (which is just down the street from where I live), and the TV studio.

Q: What is your favourite room and why?

A: I call it the Situation Room. It's the room that connects it all, where everything happens — hanging out, eating, TV watching, even sleeping sometimes because my

sofa is so darn comfortable!

Q: How would you describe your decorating style?

A: My space has a decor aesthetic of richly layered rooms that blend serious style and playful individualism, achieving the ultimate in sophisticated comfort. My personal palate is transitional — I like to mix old and new, while injecting some mid-century modern, incorporating traditional, with ample textures. I love using blue, my favourite colour — I just feel good around it.

Q: What is your fondest memory in this home?

A: Having my late grandma Jeannie come and spend time

here — we were so close. I still have her slippers, in the bottom left drawer of the chrome armoire to be precise!

Q: What's the one item in this house you can't live without?

A: My coffee machine — I love coffee — did I say I love coffee?

Q: Weekends at home, what are we most likely to find you doing?

A: Entertaining or nothing — it's one or the other!

Q: If your walls could talk, what would they say?

A: Man, this guy works way too much!

Photography by Jordan Prussy

